

MRRIC PLANNING GROUP
Drafting Team Meeting Summary

Omaha, NE
March 28-29, 2007

Meeting Handouts

- Meeting Agendas
- Final Framework for Convening the MRRIC Planning Group process
- Facilitator Team Proposals
- Basic Principles for Agency Engagement in Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving
- OMB/CEQ Memorandum on Environmental Conflict Resolution
- Proposed Co-Chair Resumes
- NCER Conference Detailed Agenda

Wednesday, March 29

Mike Eng, Senior Program Manager for the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute) convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 28. Thomas Davis of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians offered an opening invocation in his native language. Mike introduced himself, reviewed the meeting agenda and the goals for the two-day meeting, and described how the facilitation team interview process would be conducted. He also explained the procedures followed by the U.S. Institute in identifying and recruiting facilitation team candidates, as well as how they were selected as finalists to be interviewed. Furthermore, Mike described the congressionally authorized mission of the U.S. Institute and its role in the MRRIC Planning Group process. All attendees introduced themselves. See Attachment A for List of Attendees.

The activity and goal for the first day of the meeting was to interview the four facilitation team finalists and to evaluate the appropriateness of each team to serve as neutral facilitators for the MRRIC Planning Group process. Mike clarified that because efforts were still continuing to fully convene the Planning Group, this meeting would be a preliminary meeting of the Drafting Team. The outcome of the day's interviews would not be to make a final decision in choosing a facilitation team, but rather to learn more about their qualifications and to consider which teams would be a better match for the needs of the process.

The following facilitation teams and their members were interviewed by Drafting Team members.

Team #1: Ruth Siguenza, Team Lead; Karen Amen and Steve Miller of Olsson Associates; and Martha Gilliland. (Ms. Siguenza and Ms. Gilliland participated by phone.)

Team #2: Joe McMahon, Team Lead; and Matthew McKinney of the Public Policy Research Institute, University of Montana

Team #3: Connie Lewis, Team Lead, and Jennifer Pratt Miles of Meridian Institute; and Meghan Sittler of the Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Team #4: Mike Hughes, Team Lead, Jody Erikson, and Ed Moreno of The Keystone Center; and Todd Bryan.

Each member of the Drafting Team was given the opportunity to ask questions of individual team members. Questions covered a wide range of topics including:

- the extent of team members' knowledge about tribal cultural resource concerns, Indian Law and treaties and tribal water rights
- what approach would be taken to recruit and involve interests not currently at the table
- which team members would actually facilitate meetings
- how tributaries of the Missouri River would be treated/incorporated into MRRIC Planning Group process
- whether the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) would be the appropriate mechanism for convening the Planning Group
- the teams' thoughts on the timeline and schedule for the Planning Group process
- familiarity with the Flood Control Act of 1944
- what would be addressed in the Charter
- appearance of perceived biases or conflicts of interest

- potential use of caucuses based on interest groups during the Planning Group process
- methods used for reaching consensus
- prospect for success of the Planning Group process
- lessons learned from other projects facilitated by each team
- clarification of team proposals and suggested strategies for developing an initial Charter for MRRIC
- the role of conflict in collaborative processes
- tensions around recovery of endangered species versus ecosystem recovery
- interpretations and understanding of tribal sovereignty
- how information would be disseminated and the use of technology to gather and share information
- how to balance endangered species recovery with tribal cultural resources concerns/issues
- expertise working with small rural communities

After the interviews were over, Mike Eng facilitated a debriefing session, where, one-by-one, Planning Group members shared their perceptions of each team's strengths and weaknesses. These were recorded simultaneously on flip-chart paper. Drafting Team members were then asked to complete a Facilitation Team Preference Form. The form allowed the Drafting Team to indicate their ranked preferences regarding the four facilitation team finalists and to identify any teams who were unacceptable. Mike Eng collected the forms for analysis in determining the relative acceptability of the four teams.

The day's meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 29

Mike Eng began by sharing concerns expressed in Missouri Governor Max Blunt's letter to General Gregg Martin dated March 22, 2007. Governor Blunt's letter was in response to General Martin's invitation to designate a representative to the MRRIC Planning Group. In his letter, Governor Blunt indicated he was unwilling, at this time, "to commit the state of Missouri to

participate in a process that may not fairly represent the interests of the citizens of Missouri.”

Mike also indicated that Tom Waters, President of the Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association, had sent him a letter at the U.S. Institute that described issues that concerned some stakeholders in Missouri about MRRIC.

Mike has responded to the letter he received from Missouri stakeholder Tom Waters and copied it broadly to individuals who were on Mr. Water’s distribution list. Mike will contact Mr. Waters for permission to share his letter and Mike’s response with Planning Group members. Mike will also disseminate to the MRRIC Planning Group Governor Blunt’s letter.

A discussion followed about continuing efforts to clarify and attempt to address Missouri stakeholders’ concerns in hopes of engaging their engagement in the MRRIC Planning Group process. Some tribal representatives on the Planning Group expressed concerns that there were many tribal interests who were not present at the meeting and who were also key stakeholders in the Basin. Mike explained that all tribes who had expressed an interest in participating in the MRRIC Planning Group process were given placeholders on the Planning Group, with the expectation tribal governments or councils would soon be designating representatives from those tribes. The same was true for the states of Iowa and Missouri. There was a call to reach out to more tribes to garner their participation in the Planning Group process.

Some members of the Drafting Team expressed concerns about delaying the formal convening of the Planning Group. There was extensive discussion among the Drafting Team members about the time that would be required to fully convene the Planning Group and whether or not the next meeting scheduled for April 25 in Kansas City, should take place. Mike apologized for the delay but emphasized the importance of engaging all interested and affected parties in the collaborative effort, if possible. Mike indicated his strong hope that efforts to bring Missouri stakeholders, tribal representatives, and others into the Planning Group process would be expeditious and successful.

After a break, Mike Eng reconvened the meeting by explaining the process used in ultimately identifying Cheryl Chapman and John Thorson as potential Co-Chairs for the MRRIC Planning Group process. The recommendation for having a Chair or Co-Chairs to provide impartial leadership assistance to the Planning Group process came from the Federal Working Group and was incorporated in the Final Framework document published in February 2007, based on

feedback and suggestions from members of the public. The Federal Working Group felt that leadership of a Chair or Co-Chairs who were recognized for their “integrity, nonaligned status on Missouri River issues, and their expertise in leading collaborative efforts,” would be helpful to the Planning Group process. Recommendations for Co-Chair candidates came from all across the country; approximately 15 potential candidates were identified. This list was narrowed, based on a set of agreed-upon criteria and the interest and availability of candidates. The Federal Working Group subsequently interviewed and unanimously recommended John Thorson and Cheryl Chapmen to serve as Co-Chairs. The Federal Working Group forwarded their recommendation to the federal executives making up the Missouri River Basin Interagency Roundtable, who endorsed the selection of both candidates.

Cheryl Chapman and John Thorson then introduced themselves, in turn, to the Planning Group and each of them shared why they were motivated to serve as Co-Chairs of the Planning Group process, how their personal and professional experience would benefit the process, and their vision of the roles the Co-Chairs would play. Following their presentations, they fielded questions from the Planning Group members.

Mike explained that a final decision would not be made at this meeting about endorsing the proposed Co-Chairs. Mike indicated he would be exploring ways for John and Cheryl to meet with other stakeholders who were not present at the meeting, to explain their proposed roles in the Planning Group process and to hopefully gain their confidence and endorsement.

Mike subsequently opened the meeting to discussion about whether to go forward with the MRRIC Planning Group meeting on April 25 to be held in conjunction with the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration. A number of Planning Group members expressed their desire that the Planning Group take advantage of the educational opportunities available at the Conference. Many members strongly urged that the meeting in April serve as the formal convening of the MRRIC Planning Group to ensure continued support for their participation by their agency and organizational sponsors. The Group ultimately decided that plans should go forward for interested Planning Group members to attend the National Ecosystem Restoration Conference, April 23-27, and to conduct the MRRIC Planning Group meeting on Wednesday of that week. Mike agreed that the goal would be to reach agreement on a recommended facilitation team by the end of April.

Several Planning Group members committed to pursuing outreach efforts to ensure all interests in the Basin participated in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A**List of Attendees****Drafting Team Members**

David Barfield	State of Kansas
Patrick Cassidy	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
David Cookson	State of Nebraska (3/29/07)
Thomas Davis	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Jack Erickson	State of South Dakota
Thomas Graves	Mid-West Electric Consumers Association
David Johnson	Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Rebecca Kidder	Alternate - Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Jack Majeres	Moody County Conservation District
Vicki Marquis	Missouri River Conservation Districts Council
Kirk Nelson	State of Nebraska (3/28/07)
Chairman Mitchell Parker	Alternate - Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Tony Provost	Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Joe Rivera	Alternate - Blackfeet Tribe
Fred Ryckman	State of North Dakota
Tom Schrempp	WaterOne
David Schwarz	Yellowstone River Conservation District Council
Stan Schwellenbach	City of Pierre
Amen Sheridan	Alternate - Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa
Jason Skold	The Nature Conservancy
Elizabeth Wakeman	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Bob Walters	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Wanda Wells Crowe	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
Bob Williamson	City of Kansas City, Missouri

Review Panel Members

George Cunningham	Sierra Club, Midwest Region (3/29/07)
Marian Maas	Nebraska Wildlife Federation (3/29/07)
Lynn Muench	American Waterways Operators-Mid-Continent Region
Bill Smith	Waterfowl Association of Iowa

Federal Advisory Group Members

Mike Collins	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Heather McSharry	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mary Roth	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nicholas Stas	Western Area Power Administration

Others

Cheryl Chapman	Proposed Planning Group Co-Chair
Mike Eng	U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
Pat Lewis	U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
John Thorson	Proposed Planning Group Co-Chair